

**Response to Comment P2-73**

Comment noted.

**Response to Comment P2-74**

Please refer to the Master Response on *Other-Growth Inducement Analysis* in Section 3 of this Final EIR/EIS.

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1 Diego. And I want to express my concern and belief that  
2 this document, the Imperial Irrigation District Water  
3 Conservation and transfer project draft, Habitat  
4 Conservation Plan and draft EIR/EIS is incomplete and  
5 inadequate.

6 As a new resident I want to commend the efforts  
7 that our public agencies are taking in putting forth the  
8 secure, adequate and reliable water supply. I bathe in  
9 that water. I drink that water. I cook with that water.  
10 However, I believe that any transfer must not cause  
11 irreparable harm to our environment.

12 And, therefore, the plan must adequately ensure  
13 that there is no irreparable harm to the Salton Sea, which  
14 is a nationally significant wildlife habitat. It needs to  
15 ensure that the water supply and the water quality of the  
16 Salton Sea is managed in order to keep the sea viable. And  
17 it needs to ensure that the water level of the Salton Sea is  
18 managed so that it does not irreparably impact local health,  
19 air quality, recreation use and wildlife benefits.

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20 Regarding San Diego, I believe that the plan is  
21 inadequate in that it finds there's no growth inducing  
22 impacts. This is incorrect. The water provided by the  
23 transfer is a reliable and secure source that San Diego does  
24 not currently have. And second, the water would create an  
25 increased supply and potential surplus over today's San

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1 Diego's current needs.

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2 The plan is inadequate in that it does not address  
3 the resulting growth inducing impacts as has been stated by  
4 others, and I believe it fails to seize the opportunity to  
5 use this transfer to promote smart growth, which is a goal  
6 that is highly claimed by local governments and the regions.

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7 Finally, the EIR/EIS and MCP plan does not  
8 adequately address water conservation and recycling  
9 alternatives. And in conclusion, it is my belief that this  
10 document is not yet complete, not yet adequate and it misses  
11 a major opportunity and need to protect our environment and  
12 meet societal needs.

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13 Thank you.

14 MS. CARD: Thank you. Peter MacLaggan. Then  
15 Lawrence Anderson.

16 MR. MACLAGGAN: Thank you. Good evening. My name  
17 is Peter MacLaggan. I'm here tonight representing the San  
18 Diego Regional Chamber of Congress. The Chamber represents  
19 3200 members from the business community. They drive a  
20 diverse annual economy in the San Diego region of over 120  
21 billion dollars.

22 I'm the current chair of our water committee. And  
23 the water committee, we consider and address a wide range of  
24 issues related to water supply, reliability of water supply,  
25 cost and integrity of San Diego supply that supports our

**Response to Comment P2-75**

Please refer to the Master Response on *Other—Desalination in SDWCA Service Area and Comments Calling for Increased Conservation* in Section 3 of this Final EIR/EIS.

**Response to Comment P2-76**

Without a specific reference to a part of the Draft EIR/EIS, this comment is too general to respond to. Comment noted.

**Response to Comment P2-77**

Comment noted.

1 economy.

2       The period of time from 1989 to 1992, the entire  
3 state of California was forced to contend with a horrendous  
4 drought. We had a full Colorado River aqueduct at that  
5 time. So, we had all of our Colorado supplies -- during the  
6 drought, our supplies for northern California diminished to  
7 zero at one point from the state water project.

8       Our business community, our local residents were  
9 forced to contend with 30 percent cutbacks in water supply,  
10 which had a devastating impact on the economy.

11       At that point and since that time, the Chamber has  
12 vowed to work closely with the County Water Authority, its  
13 member agencies to make sure that we never put ourselves in  
14 this situation again.

15       The business community is committed to taking the  
16 steps necessary to ensure that we continue to have adequate  
17 supply -- sources of supply to sustain and grow the local  
18 economy. We have looked it and supported and endorsed a  
19 number of strategic investments in water supply, including  
20 water conservation, water reclamation, water transfers and  
21 an emergency water salination program for San Diego County.

22       I just want to highlight what has been accomplished  
23 with one of these tools. The water conservation program  
24 that has been implemented by the San Diego County Water  
25 Authority and its member agencies as what we view as a

1 cutting edge program.

2 It is addressing municipal uses, both residential  
3 and industrial. There are commercial program and there are  
4 agriculture programs that are the most sophisticated and the  
5 most elaborate anywhere you will find in the world and  
6 particularly in this region within which the Authority  
7 operates with its retail agencies.

8 As a result of these efforts, there have been  
9 numerous awards that have been given to the Water Authority  
10 and its members for these efforts. But as a result of these  
11 efforts, the demand for imported water today in San Diego  
12 County is the same as it was in 1989 before the drought  
13 began. Yet we have five hundred thousand more people in the  
14 region.

15 So, to suggest that San Diego County is not doing  
16 its job to develop alternative supplies and to conserve the  
17 available resources, I think, is not an accurate nor fair  
18 statement at this point in time.

19 For the business prospective, we are concerned  
20 about the certainty and the reliability of the Colorado  
21 River supply specific issues that you are looking at with  
22 respect to the EIR/EIS. For the last two decades, Colorado  
23 River aqueduct that serves southern California has run chalk  
24 full.

25 And we are concerned that the ability to keep that

1 aqueduct full in the future is in jeopardy. It is in  
2 jeopardy because states of Arizona and Nevada are now taking  
3 their full allotments from the River. The availability of  
4 surplus flows is in jeopardy on the river and California is  
5 being required to live within its entitlement on the river.

6 So, why are we here today? We are here today to  
7 consider a water transfer program that is the cornerstone  
8 and a crucial element of California's efforts to reduce its  
9 use of the Colorado River to 4.4 million acre-feet.

10 Since 1996, the Chamber has supported the Authority  
11 and Imperial Irrigation District efforts to bring this  
12 voluntary transfer program to a reality. We continue to  
13 support the accomplishments of the water transfer program  
14 and other QSA programs as a means of ensuring the certainty  
15 and reliability of the Colorado River supply serving  
16 southern California and its thriving economy that depends on  
17 those supplies.

18 I'm a little puzzled by some of the comments I have  
19 heard here this evening with respect to growth inducement.  
20 The aqueduct that comes over from the Colorado River, Lake  
21 Havasu to serve southern California has a finite capacity.  
22 It is running full today. It is chalk full. You can't put  
23 anymore water in it.

24 So, I'm not quite sure how this program is going to  
25 cause additional growth in the region. From my prospective,

1 when you are analyzing the issue of growth inducement and  
2 the EIR and the EIS and the environment impacts associated  
3 with the project, it is important to recognize that this is  
4 not an additional supply to support the growth in the region  
5 and the economy. What it is is two hundred thousand  
6 acre-feet of water that San Diego will realize and water  
7 transfers that is merely a substitute for the supply that we  
8 are already receiving and we have been receiving for  
9 decades.

10 The chamber believes that the transfer is crucial  
11 to our region's future. We urge IID, we urge the U. S.  
12 Bureau of Reclamation, and the San Diego County Water  
13 Authority to advance the proposed transfer to accomplish the  
14 project purposes, needs and objectives spelled out in the  
15 EIR and EIS. Specifically for IID, we support conservation  
16 of water, transfer to San Diego under market based  
17 transaction that provides economic stimulus to the Imperial  
18 Valley.

19 The chamber will support any method, any  
20 combination of methods of conservation to get the job done  
21 as long as they enjoy the support of the effective  
22 constituencies. For the Authority, we support acquisition  
23 of an independent alternative long-term supply that provides  
24 drought protection, increased reliability, diversifies the  
25 available sources of supply and reduces the concurrent

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Comment noted.

1 dependence on a single source of imported water and  
2 establishes a stabilized competitive price for a significant  
3 portion of that supply.

4 And clearly for the Bureau, we support their  
5 efforts to assist California in reaching 4.4 million  
6 acre-feet. With that, thank you for the opportunity to  
7 comment on the draft document and I appreciate your efforts.

8 MS. CARD: Thank you. Lawrence Anderson? James  
9 Bond. Then William A. Watkins.

10 MR. BOND: Good evening and thank you very much for  
11 the opportunity to address this group. I hadn't really  
12 intended to speak this evening -- my name is James Bond --  
13 but after hearing some of the testimony, I thought it would  
14 be important to make some observations for the record.

15 I base those observations as I'm a member of the  
16 State of California Colorado River Board. I sit on the San  
17 Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors, on the San  
18 Diegito Water Board of Directors, and I'm the Deputy Mayor  
19 of the city of Encinitas. I share that with you only so  
20 that you know that is the basis upon which I draw these  
21 observations that I would like to share with you.

22 And some of the concerns I have is that we truly  
23 need to compare and contrast some of the comments and  
24 statements that come before us tonight. The first one that  
25 I would comment on is growth inducing.

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1           Quite frankly, unless folks who like myself are  
2 long in the tooth have the courtesy to die a lot younger and  
3 we are willing to stop having children, we are going to have  
4 growth. There's ample scientific evidence to say that we  
5 are not going to shrink as a population. Growth is going to  
6 occur. Growth is going to occur.

7           The second piece that concerns me is the  
8 environmental -- I think we are talking about the ecosystems  
9 and repair and maintenance of the ecosystem for the Salton  
10 Sea. And I think we have got literally millions of years of  
11 record to show that the Salton Sea in its most natural state  
12 really ought to be a Salton sink. Not a Salton Sea, but a  
13 Salton sink.

14           It was born from a mistake in 1905. This is all  
15 information people know and it's been sustained with 1.3  
16 million acre-feet of largely agriculture run-off, high in  
17 salt, solids and minerals. It was mentioned earlier this  
18 transfer is not really an increase of new water.

19           There is no new wet water headed towards the west  
20 coast from the Imperial Valley. It is a redistribution of  
21 water there. Indeed, we will be -- we will be drawing about  
22 six to eight hundred thousand acre-feet less water here.  
23 So, the growth inducing part of that just is not real.

24           The way to redistribute that water in a way that is  
25 equitable and fair to all seems to be with a willing buyer,



1 willing seller. The west coast has some funds and the  
2 ability to pay for the water. The Imperial Valley has the  
3 ability to conserve and do whatever they can to release some  
4 of that water to the west coast. So, we help both  
5 economies.

6 The analogy of the Owens Valley comparison to the  
7 Salton Sea I find troubling as well. Simply because the  
8 Owens Valley was a huge fresh water, you know, origin  
9 supply. This has not been one. This has been a --  
10 alternately a sea in a sink for millions of years.

11 We vacationed, as many of you have, in the Utah  
12 area in the Great Salt Lake. In fact, I did that on a  
13 motorcycle when I was a little younger. But my wife was on  
14 the back and we went past the Salt Lake and it was replete  
15 with lots of wildlife.

16 Darwin, I believe, would be spinning in his grave  
17 to think that we would not evolve and change as an ecosystem  
18 as the environment changes. We almost have to forget all of  
19 that which he tried to teach us if we are to say that this  
20 must stop.

21 Because right now, I do think there's a flaw in our  
22 analysis of what's environmentally sound in that we take a  
23 snapshot in time and we say this is natural. Never mind  
24 what happened millions of years before that. This right now  
25 is natural and we want to preserve that natural state.

Response to Comment P2-79

Comment noted.

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1           So, I would just say that, please, do consider  
2   compare and contrast some of these observations. I think  
3   that the transfer is worthwhile and it is beneficial to all  
4   concerned and hopefully it will go forward and I do believe  
5   the SIR has addressed all the key points.

6           Thank you.

7           MS. CARD: Thank you. William A. Watkins. Then  
8   Lawrence Anderson.

9           MR. WATKINS: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.  
10   This is only my second time to be here. I was here for the  
11   first time on the 14th and one thing that I noticed was one  
12   of the propositions to bring the water over was through  
13   Mexico and there was to be a --

14          MS. CARD: Excuse me, sir. Excuse me. Could you,  
15   please, speak up a little closer to the microphone.

16          MR. WATKINS: Is that better?

17          MS. CARD: The court reporter is having a hard time  
18   hearing you.

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19          MR. WATKINS: This is my second time here. And on  
20   the 14th I was here and I was remembering that one of the  
21   opportunities to bring water over was through Mexico. And  
22   at that time, I recall them talking about the fact that if  
23   that were to be true, Mexico would have the hand on the tap,  
24   that is, they would have the opportunity for the first use  
25   of the water.